This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings of the claims.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for topical administration providing an enhanced localization of active ingredient comprising [[÷]]

at least one active ingredient, or a salt, ester, hydrate or derivative thereof;

a gelator system consisting of a blend of surfactants;

a solvent system comprising at least one oily component;

an aqueous phase comprising one or more stabilizing agents; and

optionally other pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

wherein the blend of surfactants act as gelators of the oily component present in the solvent system forming a three dimensional network which immobilizes the solvent system wherein the surfactant gelled oily phase can accommodate the aqueous phase without changing the lipid microenvironment and gel architecture of the composition.

27. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 26, wherein the active ingredient is either hydrophobic or amphiphilic in nature.

28. (Cancel)

29. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 28, wherein the active ingredient is terbinafine~~, or a~~ salt~~, ester, hydrate or derivative thereof~~.

30. (Cancel)

31. (Cancel)

32. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, 27, or ~~28,~~ 29~~, 30 or 31~~, wherein the gelator system consisting of a blend of surfactants comprises at least two surfactants wherein at least one is a hydrophilic surfactant having an HLB value greater than or equal to about 10; and at least one lipophilic surfactant having an HLB value less than about 10, said surfactant components being present in an amount sufficient to achieve gelation of one or more oily components present in the solvent system.

33. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, 27, ~~28,~~ or 29~~, 30 or 31,~~ wherein the gelator system consisting of a blend of surfactants comprises at least two surfactants wherein both the surfactants are non-ionic.

34. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32, wherein the gelator system consisting of a blend of surfactants comprises at least two surfactants wherein both the surfactants are non-ionic.

35. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, 27, ~~28,~~ or 29~~, 30 or 31~~, wherein the gelator system is present in an amount from 5 % to 50 % by weight of the total weight of composition.

36. (Cancel)

37. (Cancel)

38. (Cancel)

39. (Cancel)

40. (Cancel)

41. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26 or 32, wherein the gelator system consisting of a blend of surfactants comprise a lipophilic surfactant which is a sorbitan fatty acid ester selected from a group comprising sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monopalmitate, sorbitan monooleate, and sorbitan monostearate; or mixtures thereof; and a hydrophilic surfactant which is a polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid ester selected from a group comprising polyoxyethylene sorbitanmonolaurate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monopalmitate, polyoxyethylene sorbitanmonooleate, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan monostearate; or mixtures thereof.

42. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32, wherein ratio of hydrophilic surfactant to lipophilic surfactant is 1:20 to 20:1.

43. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, wherein the solvent system comprises at least one oily component, and one or more other components selected from a group comprising methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, triethyl citrate, acetyl butyl citrate or triacetin; or mixtures thereof; or other hydrophilic solvents selected from a group comprising ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerol, polyethylene glycol, and polyethylene glycol esters; or mixtures thereof.

44. (Previously presently) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 43, wherein the at least one oily component of the solvent system is selected from a group comprising natural oils, mineral oil, mono-, di-, or tri-glyceride esters of oils selected from a group

consisting of medium chain triglycerides, oleic acid, ethyl oleate, ethyl caprylate, ethyl butyrate, isopropyl myristate, soyabean oil, canola oil or their mono-and di-glycerides, aluminium monostearate, aluminium distearate, aluminium tristearate, microcrystalline wax, petroleum wax and mixtures, used either alone or in combination thereof.

45. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim ~~claims~~ 43 or 44, wherein the at least one oily component of the solvent system is a medium chain triglyceride.

46. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, wherein the aqueous phase comprises one or more of water, aliphatic or aromatic alcohols, glycols, or a mixture thereof.

47. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, wherein the composition is a topical formulation and the stabilizing agent is a natural, synthetic, or semi synthetic polymer which acts as a structure former and stabilizer, wherein the stabilizing agent is selected from a group comprising chitosan, poloxamer, cellulosic polymers, gums and alginates or a mixture thereof.

48. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 47, wherein the topical formulation range from an emulsion, cream, lotion or gel.

49. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 47, wherein the stabilizing agent is poloxamer.

50. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 47 or 49,

wherein the stabilizer is added either in the oily phase or in aqueous phase or added as an aqueous solution up to a concentration ranging from 0.1% to 20% of the total weight of the composition.

51. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, wherein the other pharmaceutically acceptable excipients are selected from the group comprising preservatives, formulation aids, antioxidants, diluents, pH adjusting agents, buffering agents, tonicity modifiers, or colorants, or a mixtures thereof.

52. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26, which comprises the steps of:

(i) preparing the gelator system and the solvent system followed by mixing,

(ii) incorporating the active ingredient(s) into the mixture obtained in step (i),

(iii) preparing the aqueous phase comprising the stabilizer, and

(iv) mixing the material of step (ii) with the material of step (iii) with continuous stirring to obtain the desired composition.

53. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of fungal, bacterial or microbial infection; inflammation; autoimmune conditions; or hormonal disorders comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26 to a subject in need thereof.